Environment Secretaries and Pollution Control Board officials some fundamental issues relating to pollution in big cities were discussed;

(b) if so, the details of the deliberations and the conclusions reached; and

(c) the details of time-bound plan of action drawn up, if any, with monitoring mechanism established therefor, to clean up the polluted cities, especially the metros and other major cities?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A two days Conference of State Environment Secretaries and Chairpersons of Pollution Control Boards/Committees was held on 8th and 9th July, 2002 to discuss various issues relating to pollution control including formulation and implementation of action plans for control of air pollution in selected cities. States Pollution Control Boards/Committees have been asked to prepare action plans in a time-bound manner for non-attainment cities identified by the Central Pollution Control Board including cities where Nitrogen dioxide, Sulphur dioxide, the Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter levels have exceeded the prescribed standards and also are equal or higher than Delhi.

Action taken reports on pollution

1810. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked for detailed Reports from State Governments about the action taken to clean up the air of critically polluted cities as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated 10th July, 2002;

(b) if so, the details of reports submitted by State Governments;

(c) whether the Supreme Court orders to clean up the air pollution have been ignored by State Governments;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of further steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Government have asked the State Governments and Pollution Control Boards/Committees to prepare action plans for control

of pollution in cities/towns which do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The State Governments have already taken initiatives for preparing such action plans. So far action plans have been received for Bangalore, Shimla, Parwanoo, Damtal, Kolkata, Howrah, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Surat, Baroda, Ankleshwar, Rajkot and Vapi cities.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

WWF for wildlife seizure

1811. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated 6th July, 2002, captioned WWF red tape spells end for wildlife seizure project.

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether Government would review and give life to the programme of WWF-TRAFFIC India which had the biggest wildlife trade seizures in the 90s; and

(d) if so, the efforts made by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) TRAFFIC-India was helping conservation efforts of the Government by providing intelligence and helping in apprehending the persons indulging in illegal trade of wildlife and its products. There are many other NGOs in Delhi doing similar type of work. Further, the Government has involved CBI, Customs Department and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in control of poaching and illegal trade of wildlife products. In these circumstances termination of TRAFFIC-India project of WWF is unlikely to have any adverse impact on the wildlife conservation efforts in the country. Closure of TRAFFIC-India is an internal matter of WWF and it will not be appropriate for Government of India to intervene in the matter.